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SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Suppose a Harijan, a political sufferer, a landless poor person and an ex-serviceman apply for land at one and the same time. May I know who will get the highest priority? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The highest priority goes to the landless poor, and the Harijan is supposed to be included in the category of landless poor persons."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Arising out of the question put by the hon. Member who preceded me, may I know the policy of the Government with regard to the grant of lands to political sufferers? May I also know whether there are any political sufferers now in this State? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think there should be some political sufferers in the State now. On the question of policy, the first preference goes to the landless poor and then come the political sufferers and the ex-servicemen respectively."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it not a fact that the revised policy of the Hon. the Chief Minister enjoins that political sufferers should not trespass on lands already in the possession of others? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Political sufferers do not ordinarily trespass on other's lands."

Cold storage plants in the Andhra area.

* 183 Q.—DR. K. B. MENON (on behalf of Sri P. V. R. Gajapathi Raju) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to erect cold storage plants in the Andhra area ;

(*b*) whether there was a proposal before the Government to erect one at Kakinada ; and

(*c*) if so, what is the stage at which the proposal stands?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) There was a proposal by the Fisheries Department to acquire a 70-ton capacity cold store at Visakhapatnam, but this was dropped since the plant in question was considered to be too big for that area for profitable utilization. There is another proposal by the Fisheries Department to instal two units of ice factory-*cum*-cold storage plants on the East Coast under the Technical Co-operation Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America. The question whether a plant could be erected at Kakinada will be examined when the proposals are finalized."

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Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government going to have any plants for the preservation of food that is wasted during the glut period? "

The Hon. Dr. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The plants which I have referred to are meant for fish. If there should be a glut in the market in respect of other foodstuffs, and if they require to be kept in cold storage and there is enough room for the purpose, the matter will be considered."

Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Although the question relates to Andhra, may I ask what the idea of the Government is in the matter of installing such plants in other parts of the State? "

The Hon. Dr. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" There is a proposal, for installing three plants, one on the West Coast and two on the East Coast. One of the latter two is likely to be in the Andhra area."

Sri P. THIMMA REDDI :—" Is there any proposal before the Government to have refrigerators for the purpose of moving perishable food from one area to another where there is no food? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

Sri C. V. K. RAO :—" May I know who will be managing such a plant, if one is installed in Kakinada and also what work have the Americans to do with it? "

The Hon. Dr. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" I expect the Fisheries Department will be managing the plant. What the Americans have to do is, under the Technical Co-operation Agreement entered into by the Government of India with the American Government, the latter should help increase the quantity of marine fishery products now available to the consumers."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture was pleased to state that in three places cold storage plants would be installed, one on the West Coast and two on the East Coast of which one might be in Andhra area. May I know whether the third one is proposed to be installed in the Madras City and if so, may I inform the Hon. Minister that there is already one cold storage plant in the City managed by the Corporation of Madras? Since another plant in the City will be superfluous, may I suggest that the new plant may be installed in the coastal area of Tamil Nad, where one may be really necessary? "

The Hon. Dr. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Yes, Sir. It will be located at a place where it is most needed and most suitable."

Sri M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that the proposals for the installation of the cold storage plant in the Andhra Desa are getting finalized. May I know the approximate time that will be taken by the Government for the finalization of the proposals? "

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THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, I said they were being considered. I cannot tell exactly how long it will take to finalize them."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether canning does not come under preservation of food and if so, will the Government consider the question of reviving the canning factory at Beypore? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Construction of a bridge at Chetwai, Ponnani taluk.

* 184 Q.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state : whether the Government proposed to construct a bridge at Chetwai in Ponnani taluk, Malabar district?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The proposal is under consideration."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, it is understood that Rs. 7 lakhs were collected by P.C.C. Societies in Ponnani taluk over and above the scheduled price of rice that was supplied, of course by mistake, and that amount has been taken over by the Government with the promise to construct the bridge. Therefore, will the Government take up the issue immediately and do the needful? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, it was thought that the bridge would cost Rs. 13½ lakhs but now as the bridge is proposed to be constructed at the estuary of the river, it is estimated that it would cost much more. Detailed report and estimates of costs have been called for. After these are received, formal sanction will be accorded for the construction of the bridge."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether there are proposals to construct any other bridge in Malabar? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Number of persons thrown out of employment in South Kanara on the introduction of Prohibition.

* 185 Q.—SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state how many persons have been thrown out of employment in South Kanara district after 1st October 1947 as a result of the extension of the Prohibition Act?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Nine thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine persons were thrown out of employment in South Kanara on the introduction of Prohibition. A majority of the ex-tappers are now employed in tapping sweet toddy for the manufacture of jaggery and the rest are employed in other avocations as agricultural labourers, etc."